

Let me point out that any statement as to the future role of the State colleges drawn up without reference to the Advisory Council for Higher Education is of necessity incomplete. The recommendations made by the Council unquestionably will be influential in shaping the roles of these colleges. For the present, it may suffice to identify some of the factors with which those recommendations must reckon.

Tradition has established that a major function of the colleges must be the training of teachers. Legislation has broadened those responsibilities to include the development of intensified program in the arts and sciences. The character of the institutions performing these roles is also a factor. Each has its own size, location and identity. All are four-year public institutions. That public nature subjects them to the demands of exploding enrollments. It also subjects them to the recently adopted State policy regarding dormitory construction.

A probable consequence of that policy is that the regional character of most of the colleges will become increasingly manifest, and this in turn will affect the development of programs if our ideal of offering broad educational opportunity in every area of the State is to be attained.

The first hundred years of Towson State College have seen many developments — the evolution from a normal school to a teachers college to a State college, the move from a city location to a suburban campus, the development of an evening program and a summer program and a graduate program, the growth from a few hundred to several thousands with attendant expansion of campus and facilities.

The next century is likely to bring changes far beyond our capacity to see at the present time. In fact, the next decade is likely to bring as great an expansion in enrollment, facilities and programs as occurred during the entire ten decades of its past. Maryland is proud of its State colleges and optimistic about their continued service in the coming years. I am happy to be present on this commencement day to open formally Towson's centennial.

Now, to conclude let me again offer warm congratulations to the members of this graduating class. It is to the young men and young women here — and the young men and young women who are graduating elsewhere — that we must look for the leadership of our State, of our country, and of the world.

May God speed you, and may you find a productive, interesting and satisfying life in a world of peace and happiness.